

- VIREO CALIDRIS (Linn.).
- SALTATOR GUADELOUPENSIS, Lawr.
- + ELAINEA MARTINICA (Linn.).
- + TYRANNUS ROSTRATUS, Sclater.
- + EULAMPIS HOLOSERICEUS (Linn.).
- + EULAMPIS JUGULARIS (Linn.).
- + BELLONA CRISTATA (Linn.).
- + GEOTRYGON MYSTACEA (Temm.).
- + ARDEA VIRESCENS (Linn.).

Mr. Richardson stopped several days in St. Lucia, but collected nothing there, not being able to procure a permit to shoot birds from the authorities; but he purchased a number of skins from a native living in the interior of the island, and among them examples of a black *Loxigilla* already described ('Auk,' 1886, p. 382) as a supposed new species. The lot contained examples of ten species.

- + MYIADESTES SANCTÆ-LUCIÆ, Stejn.
- + CINCLOCERTHIA MACRORHYNCHA (Sclater).
- + RAMPHOCINCLUS BRACHYURUS (Vieill.).
- DENDRÆCA DELICATA (Ridgw.).
- LEUCOPEZA SEMPERI, Sclater.
- CERTHIOLA MARTINICANA, Reich.
- LOXIGILLA RICHARDSONI, Cory.
- EUPHONIA FLAVIFRONS (Sparrm.).
- ICTERUS LAUDABILIS, Sclater.
- + CONTOPUS LATIROSTRIS, Verr.

XLVI.—*On a Collection of Birds from Fao, in the Persian Gulf.* By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S. &c. *With Notes by the Collector, W. D. CUMMING.*

THE British Museum has received during the past year a valuable series of birds from Mr. W. D. Cumming, who is stationed at Fao, and is a most energetic collector. The

notes sent by him (which are enclosed in brackets) contain very instructive information on the migration of some of the species observed, while his account of the nesting of *Hypocolius* is an interesting record of a hitherto unknown fact.

1. *CIRCUS MACRURUS* (Gm.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 67 (1874); Blanf. East. Persia, ii. p. 110 (1876).

No. 58. An adult and a young male, the latter losing the brown immature plumage. [Shot in November 1884.]

No. 44. A male and female in immature plumage. [Shot in September 1884. Winter visitant.]

2. *BUTEO DESERTORUM* (Daud.); Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 179.

No. 103. One of the specimens sent is in the dark plumage of so-called *B. menetriesi*.

[Winter visitant. Shot on 9th and 10th September, 1884.]

3. *NISAETUS PENNATUS* (Gm.); Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 253.

Aquila pennata, Blanf. *t. c.* p. 112.

No. 99. A male and female in light plumage and one in the melanistic phase.

[Winter visitant. The black one was shot on the 9th of September, 1884, and the other two on the 23rd of the same month; they were seated together on an old mud fort.]

4. *MILVUS KORSCHUN* (Gm.); Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 322.

Milvus migrans, Blanf. *t. c.* p. 114.

No. 48. Two specimens.

[These Kites visit Fao frequently during the year, but do not remain longer than a couple of days at a time, roosting at night on the date-trees.

During the winter they are more frequently seen circling overhead.

From March to April large flocks migrate from S. to N.]

5. *PERNIS APIVORUS* (L.); Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 344.

No. 107. An example in uniform brown plumage.

[Winter visitant. Shot September 22, 1884.]

6. *FALCO SUBBUTEO* (L.) ; Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 395 ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 105.

No. 98. An adult male and female and a young male.

[Winter visitant.]

7. *SCOPS GIU* (L.) ; Sharpe, *op. cit.* ii. p. 47 ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 115.

[Only three specimens shot, October 10, 1883, April 22, 1884, and one in October of the same year. Did not observe any others.]

8. *ASIO ACCIPITRINUS* (Pall.) ; Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 234.

Otus brachyotus, Blanf. *t. c.* p. 116.

No. 39. An adult male and an immature male and female.

[Only three specimens secured, all in your possession.

The male in good plumage was shot on the morning of the 12th March ; he rose from some lucerne whilst I was after Quail.

The two others were shot, one on the evening of the 17th, and the other on the morning of the 19th of September, about the same locality.]

9. *STRIX FLAMMEA*, L. ; Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 291.

[The only specimen, shot in February 1885.]

10. *CORVUS CAPELLANUS*, ScL. ; Sharpe, *op. cit.* iii. p. 32.

Mr. Cumming sends the nest and eggs of this Crow.

[Resident. Breeding from the 15th of February to the end of March.]

11. *ORIOLOUS GALBULA*, L. ; Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 191 ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 219.

No. 91. Two specimens.

[Migratory. Passing north-westwards in May and June, and returning in September accompanied by young birds, when they stay for some days.]

12. *HYPOCOLIUS AMPELINUS*, Bp. ; Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 316.

Up to the present time very little is known of this rare and curious bird. A few specimens have been recorded from N.E. Africa, and it appears to extend at least as far as the Niam-

Niam country, where it was met with by Signor Piaggia. Von Heuglin seems not to have come across the species in life; and beyond the fact that a specimen was in the British Museum from the White Nile, and three specimens collected by Botta were in the Leiden Museum, no other locality was known until Mr. Blanford received a specimen from Sind ('Ibis,' 1875, p. 387). Unfortunately no date of capture is given of the last-named example. A specimen obtained by Dr. O. T. Duke, on the 20th of April, at Nal in Kelat, is in the Hume Collection; it is apparently an adult female.

The male is properly described by Von Heuglin in his 'Ornithologie Nordost-Afrika's,' with the exception of the colour of the quills, which are said to be pure white at the ends, whereas, as Mr. Blanford has already pointed out, the outer primaries are shaded with brown at the ends.

My description of the adult male in the 'Catalogue' (vol. iii. p. 316) appears to be correct; but coming from Africa the specimen is doubtless in winter plumage, and the colours are not quite so clear as in the breeding-plumage—that is to say that the back is purer grey, the isabelline and black of the crown are both more intense, and the colours of the underparts also rather richer in the birds from Fao. The bill is yellowish with a horny brown tip, in the White-Nile bird; but whether this is an evidence of winter dress or is due to exposure to the light in our gallery, I cannot say for certain. In the breeding males the bill is jet-black.

The female in breeding-plumage differs from the male, as described by Von Heuglin, in wanting the black on the head and face, as well as on the wings, the primaries being brown to the ends, edged and fringed at the tips with greyish white; the tail-feathers ashy grey or drab, with narrow whitish tips, the feathers being subterminally blackish, but not to the same extent as in the male.

[Arriving from S.E. early in April. First individuals observed in 1884 were a small flock of six birds flying over telegraph buildings on the 10th of April. On the 11th my collector brought me a female that he had shot.

It is not till the middle of June that they breed.

In 1883, first eggs were brought by an Arab about the 13th of June, and on the 15th of the same month I found a nest containing two fresh eggs. In 1884, on the 14th of June, a nest was brought me containing four fresh eggs, and on the 15th I found a nest containing also four fresh eggs.

2nd July, I came across four young birds able to fly. On the 3rd, three nests were brought, one containing two fresh eggs, another three young just fledged, and the other four eggs slightly incubated. On the 9th another nest, containing four young just fledged, was brought. On the 15th I saw a flock of small birds well able to fly; on the 18th I found a nest containing four young about a couple of days old, and on the 20th a nest containing three eggs well incubated was brought from a place called "Goosba" on the opposite bank (Persian side) of the river.

The nests are generally placed on the leaves of the date-palm, at no very great height. The highest I have seen was built about ten feet from the ground, but from three to five feet is the average height.

They are substantial and cup-shaped, having a diameter of about $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in depth, lined inside with fine grass, the soft fluff from the willow when in seed, wool, and sometimes hair.

The eggs are of a glossy leaden white, with leaden-coloured blotches and spots towards the larger end, sometimes forming a ring round the larger end, and at times spreading over the entire egg.

On rare occasions I have noticed a greenish tinge in very fresh eggs. This, I think, is due to the colour of the inner membrane, which is generally a very light green, in some very faint and in others more decided; this tinge seems to disappear after the egg is blown.

Very rough measurements are as follows:— $0''\cdot9 \times 0''\cdot63$; $0''\cdot83 \times 0''\cdot63$; $0''\cdot83 \times 0''\cdot6$; $0''\cdot83 \times 0''\cdot66$; $0''\cdot86 \times 0''\cdot66$.

In 1883 I managed to rear a young bird, feeding it on bread steeped in water and lots of flies.

It used to fly about my room and the verandah, but always came to me when I showed it a fly. Unfortunately,

one day I was rubbing up some brass hinges, and left them to steep in salad-oil into which a fly fell; the bird immediately seized and swallowed it, and in a few hours after got a fit, which recurred several times during the next two days, and on the third day it died.

I have known the old birds forsake a nest after it has been once examined, and even to stop building when it has been observed, and leave the locality altogether.]

13. *MUSCICAPA GRISOLA*, L.; Sharpe, *op. cit.* iv. p. 151; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 143.

[No. 85, shot 10th May, 1884.

No. 90, shot 14th May, 1884. Apparently the only birds seen by me.]

14. *MUSCICAPA PARVA*, Bechst.; Sharpe, *op. cit.* iv. p. 161. *Erythrosterna parva*, Blanf. *t. c.* p. 144.

No. 116, a young bird.

[Shot 10th October, 1884. Only bird observed.]

15. *PRATINCOLA RUBETRA* (L.); Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 179; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 146.

[No. 81. Migratory; arriving in winter and staying till spring.

The one in your possession was shot in May 1884; one other I shot in November 1883.]

16. *PRATINCOLA HEMPRICHII* (Ehr.); Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 193; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 145.

No. 50. Two males and a female.

Although not showing quite so much white on the tail as Abyssinian specimens, all the examples sent by Mr. Cumming have the base of the tail conspicuously white.

[Winter visitant, shot in November and March.]

17. *SYLVIA NISORIA* (Bechst.); Seebohm, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 6 (1881); Blanf. *t. c.* p. 174.

[No. 86. Shot in May; most probably found in spring and autumn.]

18. *SYLVIA CINEREA*, Bechst. ; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 8.

No. 67. One specimen.

[Migratory, arriving and leaving along with *S. atricapilla*.]

19. *SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA* (L.) ; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 23 ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 174.

No. 66. Males and females sent.

[Abundant in the spring, frequenting mostly the mulberry-trees, which are in fruit at this time of the year (April and May). It again visits us in September and October, but is with difficulty discovered, owing to its skulking habits, and is quite mute. Shot in April and November.]

20. *PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS* (L.) ; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 56.

No. 112. Three specimens.

[Autumn and spring visitor ; shot on March 17th, and on September 26th, 1884.]

21. *PHYLLOSCOPUS TRISTIS* (L.) ; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 63 ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 180.

[No. 89. Migratory ; shot in March and May.]

22. *PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS* (Bechst.) ; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 60.

[No. 42. Migratory ; seen during March, April, and May.]

23. *HYPOLAIS OBSOLETA*, Severtz. ; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 86.

This rare Warbler was not represented in the British Museum, and is a welcome addition to our collection.

[Only specimen secured, in November 1884.]

24. *ACROCEPHALUS PHRAGMITIS*, Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 132.

[No. 77. I believe this bird to be a resident, for I have frequently seen it among the long grass that clothes both sides of the river near its mouth, whilst after other game. The one sent to the Museum was shot on the 1st of May, 1884, among some grass growing in a marsh just outside the telegraph compound.]

25. *ACROCEPHALUS TURDOIDES* (Meyer) ; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 95.

Acrocephalus arundinaceus, Blanf. *t. c.* p. 195.

[No. 79. Seen during spring and autumn.]

26. *ACROCEPHALUS STREPERUS* (V.); Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 102; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 196.

A carbolized specimen.

27. *ACROCEPHALUS PALUSTRIS* (Bechst.); Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 101; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 197.

[No. 43. Migratory; seen in March and April. The one in your possession was shot on the 18th of March, 1884.]

28. *TURDUS MUSICUS*, L.; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 191; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 156.

No. 46. An adult specimen.

[Migratory. Only one specimen, shot in March 1884.]

29. *ERITHACUS PHILOMELA* (Bechst.); Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 295.

No. 82. Three specimens.

[Arriving in autumn and staying till spring.

I have shot them in October and January, and one was found dead in a small date-tree on the 8th of May, 1884.]

30. *ERITHACUS GUTTURALIS* (Guérin); Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 304.

No. 71. Male and female.

[Migratory; seen from March to June, generally in pairs.]

31. *ERITHACUS CYANECULUS* (Wolf); Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 311.

No. 59. An adult male.

[Migratory, arriving in March; seen throughout April up to the middle of May. Generally in pairs.]

32. *MONTICOLA SAXATILIS* (L.); Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 313; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 156.

No. 61. Adult male; No. 73. Adult female.

[Migratory, arriving in April and staying till May.

No. 61 was shot on the 2nd of April, 1884, at Dora, about twenty miles above Fao.

No. 73 was shot on the 25th of the same month at Fao.]

33. *RUTICILLA MESOLEUCA* (H. & E.); Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 338.

No. 16. An adult male in breeding-plumage. This is a

slightly more eastern locality for the species than any hitherto recorded.

[Migratory; seen during April, May, and June.]

34. *SAXICOLA MORIO*, H. & E.; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 372; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 152.

No. 121. A male in nearly full plumage, and a second male in winter dress.

[Occurs from autumn to spring. The specimen sent was shot in October.]

35. *SAXICOLA MÆSTA*, Licht.; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 382.

No. 36. An adult male. This is a more easterly locality than has hitherto been recorded for the species.

[Migratory. I have only observed these in August and September, and again in March and April.]

36. *SAXICOLA DESERTI*, Temm.; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 383; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 148.

[No. 35. Winter visitant from August to May.]

37. *SAXICOLA MELANOLEUCA* (Güld.); Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 385; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 150.

No. 127. A male in full breeding-plumage.

[From autumn to spring.]

38. *SAXICOLA CENANTHE* (L.); Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 391; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 146.

[No. 70. Migratory. To be found singly or in pairs occasionally, during the months of September, October, up to the middle of November, and again in April and May.]

39. *SAXICOLA ISABELLINA*, Cretzschm.; Seebohm, *t. c.* p. 399; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 147.

No. 33. Two specimens.

[To be seen during autumn and winter and well into the spring. In summer an occasional bird is to be seen; but it is always rare, and only after a strong N.W. wind has been blowing for a few days.]

40. *PYCNONOTUS LEUCOTIS* (Gould); Sharpe, *op. cit.* vi. p. 136; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 218.

An adult bird. Eggs sent.

[Resident. Breeding in May and June, and laying from three to four eggs.]

41. *BURNESIA LEPIDA* (Blyth) ; Sharpe, *op. cit.* vii. p. 211.

A very pale grey specimen with the narrow stripings of *B. lepida*, but much more ashy than any specimen in the British Museum.

[Resident. Plentiful among the small bushes.

Breeds from April to June, laying from five to six eggs.]

42. *ARGYA HUTTONI* (Blyth) ; Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 394.

Crateropus huttoni, Blanf. *t. c.* p. 203, pl. xiii.

Three specimens. They are much paler than typical *A. huttoni*, and much less plainly streaked, besides being smaller in size.

[Resident. Very plentiful ; breeding throughout April and May to the middle of June. The usual number of eggs is three. On the 19th of June, 1884, I took a nest containing three fresh eggs. This is of rare occurrence, for by this time most nests contain young, and many young are seen flying about the bushes attended by the parent birds.]

43. *LANIUS MINOR*, Gm.; Gadow, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vol. viii. p. 235 ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 137.

No. 75. An adult and a young bird.

[Seen from March to May, and again in August and September.

Both those sent to the Museum were shot on the 1st of September, 1884.]

44. *LANIUS FALLAX*, Finsch ; Gadow, *t. c.* p. 247, pl. viii.

Seems to me to come nearest to a specimen from Mesopotamia, obtained by Commander Jones, and determined by Dr. Gadow to be *L. fallax*. Of the validity of some of the species of *Lanius* admitted by the last-named author I have the highest doubts.

[The only specimen, secured by me in September 1884, unless one supplied to the Karachi Museum in the early part of the year, but not identified by Mr. Murray, is of the same species.]

45. *LANIUS PHENICUROIDES*, Severtz. ; Gadow, *t. c.* p. 278.
No. 122. Adult male ; No. 72. Adult female.

Occurs from September to May.

No. 72 was shot on the 17th of April, and No. 122 on the 12th of October, 1884.

46. *LANIUS NUBICUS*, Licht. ; Gadow, *t. c.* p. 282.

No. 69. Two adult birds.

[Migratory ; only seen in March and April, generally in pairs.]

47. *LANIUS AURICULATUS*, Müll. ; Gadow, *t. c.* p. 283 ;
Blanf. *t. c.* p. 138.

No. 56. An adult specimen.

[Seasonal visitant in spring and autumn. Probably breeds beyond Busreh.]

48. *LANIUS COLLURIO*, L. ; Gadow, *t. c.* p. 286 ; Blanf. *t. c.*
p. 137.

No. 83. Two males, one female, and a young bird.

[Excepting during the months of December, January, and February, and from June to August, *i. e.* midwinter (rainy season) and midsummer, I have seen them throughout the year.

I have shot them on the 5th of May, 1884, in adolescent stage of plumage, on the 1st and again on the 30th of September, two young, one adult ; one adult on the 15th of November.]

49. *COTILE RIPARIA* (L.) ; Sharpe, *op. cit.* x. p. 96 ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 216.

[No. 92. Excepting during December and January this bird is noted by me as being seen throughout the remainder of the year.]

50. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*, L. ; Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 128 ; Blanf. *t. c.*
p. 215.

Two specimens in full plumage.

[I believe these birds only leave Fao during midwinter, *i. e.* in December and January.

Breeds in the huts and telegraph buildings in March and April, and lays as many as six eggs.]

51. *MOTACILLA ALBA*, L.; Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 464; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 232.

No. 10. A young bird in winter plumage.

[Begins to arrive in October and remains till end of April. Occasionally, but very rarely, I observed a stray bird in the early part of May 1884.]

52. *MOTACILLA FLAVA*, L.; Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 516, pl. vi. figs. 3-5.

Budytes flavus, Blanf. *t. c.* p. 233.

No. 34. Two adult males. Three autumn-plumaged birds marked 113, 34 A, 34 B.

[To be seen from September to May. In September, October, April, and May in large flocks. The rest of the time small flocks occur here and there, but it is more often in pairs. Not so common as *M. alba*.]

53. *MOTACILLA FELDEGGI*, Michahelles; Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 527, pl. viii. figs. 1-4.

No. 55. A male in full plumage.

[Migratory, appearing and leaving same time as *M. flava*.]

54. *ANTHUS TRIVIALIS* (L.); Sharpe, *t. c.* p. 543; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 235.

[No. 65. Migratory. To be found probably in spring and autumn.

The one sent to the Museum was shot on the 12th of April.]

55. *PASSER FLAVICOLLIS*.

Gymnorhis flavicollis (Frankl.); Blanf. *t. c.* p. 256.

[Arriving in April; breeding after the 15th of May. By July all nests contain young. Begins to leave again towards end of August; by end of September only a stray bird is to be seen. Nests in holes in the date-trees, laying from five to six eggs.]

56. *EMBERIZA HORTULANA*, L. ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 259.

[No. 87. Migratory in spring and autumn.]

57. *EMBERIZA LUTEOLA* (Sparrm.); Hume, Str. F. 1879, p. 107.

No. 88. An immature bird. This species is not mentioned by Blanford. Unfortunately, Mr. Cumming has no note of the specimen.

58. *GALERITA CRISTATA* (L.) ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 240.

[No. 22. Resident. Though great numbers migrate away in April, still here and there they are to be found in pairs, and from their habits apparently breeding; yet I have not been fortunate enough to discover their nests, though I have searched very closely; neither could I gain any information from the Arabs whether a nest had been seen or eggs found. By August they are all back again, accompanied by young birds.]

59. *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPEUS*, L. ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 127.

[No. 84. From autumn to spring. An odd one here and there seen in June 1884.]

60. *CYPSELUS PALLIDUS*, Shelley; Dresser, B. Eur. iv. p. 597, pl. 268.

No. 81. Two specimens, agreeing with Egyptian ones.

[Migratory. I have only seen three specimens, out of which I shot the two sent to the Museum in March 1884. All were seen singly.]

61. *MEROPS APIASTER*.

Merops apiaster, L. ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 122.

[No. 63. Migratory, arriving and leaving at the same time as *M. egyptius*.]

62. *MEROPS ÆGYPTIUS*, Forst. ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 123.

[No. 49. Migratory. In April and May large flocks are to be seen migrating north-westward of the right bank of the river (Fao side), apparently from Arabia. They return in July and August, roosting at Fao for a short time. Each pair is accompanied by their young at this time.

Supposed to breed about Busreh.]

63. *CORACIAS GARRULA*, L.; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 125.

[No. 29. Migratory, passing over in large flocks from S.E. to N.W. in May. An occasional bird roosts here at this time. In September and October they return, but in very small numbers, and stay for a short while.]

The Arabs say they breed about thirty miles up the river, in holes in the date-trees; but though I have offered high rewards for their eggs, I have not been able to get any.]

64. *CORACIAS INDICA*, L.; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 126.

[No. 29 (*sic*). Migratory.]

Only two specimens seen and shot—one on the Persian side of the river, and the other (sent to the Museum) at Fao, on an old fort a short distance from the telegraph buildings.]

65. *ALCEDO BENGALENSIS*, Gm.; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 121.

[No. 1. A young bird, which I believe to belong to *A. bengalensis* rather than to *A. ispida*. I was not careful enough, apparently, in noticing the difference between this bird and the specimen I supplied to the Karachi Museum, which has been identified by Mr. Murray as "*Alcedo ispida*." Probably both arrive and stay the same time, *i. e.* from August to April.]

In 1883 the first bird was seen on the 4th of August; after this, up to April 1884, I saw several of these small Kingfishers perched on the willow and other trees overhanging the creeks. I have no note of having seen them later than April. In 1884 the first observed was on the 11th of August.]

66. *HALCYON SMYRNENSIS* (L.); Blanf. *t. c.* p. 121.

No. 2. Arriving and leaving about same time as *Alcedo bengalensis*.

[First bird observed in 1883 was on the 2nd of August, and the last noted was on the 4th of April, 1884; from this time up to the 30th of July I have no note of having observed any. On the 30th of July I heard the bird, and saw one the following day. It breeds, I believe, above Busreh. I have shot young birds in August.]

67. *CUCULUS CANORUS*, L. ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 119.

No. 119. A young bird.

[This single bird was shot by me on the 10th of October, 1884. I frequently thought I had seen Cuckoos flying in amongst the date-trees during early morning and about sunset, but was unable to secure any other specimen, though I tried hard. Never heard any note.]

68. *TURTUR AURITUS*, Gray ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 270.

Three specimens.

[Arrives in March, leaving in September. Breeds in May and June, laying two eggs.]

69. *COTURNIX COTURNIX* (L.).

Coturnix communis, Blanf. *t. c.* p. 278.

A female.

[Arrives in April, leaving in November. Scarce in June and July.]

70. *GALLINULA CHLOROPUS* (L.) ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 288.

[Winter visitant from October to March.]

71. *FULICA ATRA*, L. ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 289.

[No. 6. Have observed the Coot from October up to March. I shot a single specimen in May 1884. This was the only bird I saw during the two months March and April. It was in very poor condition, and, probably owing to its weak state, the bird was unable to continue its flight, and rested, with intent to move forward after a day or so ; but chance brought it across my path, and I nipped its intentions in the bud.]

72. *PORZANA PORZANA* (L.).

Porzana maruetta, Dresser, B. Eur. vii. p. 267, pl. 496.

[No. 118. Resident, from the autumn to spring.]

73. *PORZANA BAILLONI* (V.) ; Dresser, *t. c.* p. 275, pl. 497.

[No. 120. Shot in October. Occurs from autumn to spring.]

74. *CREX CREX* (L.).

Crex pratensis, Blanf. *t. c.* p. 288.

[The Corn-Crake arrives in April. A stray bird is to be met with in June and July. They begin to increase in numbers from August, but lessen again towards mid November. By the commencement of December they appear to have all gone.]

75. *ARDEA CINEREA*, L. ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 295.

[Resident, breeding near Abdulla Bank.]

76. *ARDEA PURPUREA*, L. ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 295.

No. 41. Two young specimens.

[Resident, breeding in March and April near Abdulla Bank.]

77. *ARDETTA MINUTA* (L.) ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 296.

[No. 93. I cannot say I have seen this bird often, as it is very shy, but have heard its call throughout spring and summer immediately after sunset. The one sent to the Museum was caught alive in an old watercourse, where it was hiding in a hole on one side of the embankment.]

78. *DEMIEGRETTA GULARIS*, Bosc ; Hume, Str. F. 1879, p. 114.

No. 11. An adult in worn grey plumage, and a second specimen in white plumage with remains of ashy feathers.

79. *DEMIEGRETTA ASHA*.

[No. 11. Permanent resident.

In young birds the plumage is white, beginning to change about the fifth month, and by the eighth month they have completed their ashy plumage.

In April 1884, out of a consignment of eggs of *D. asha* brought from the Korseit side, there were several hatched in the boxes in which they were packed ; from these I took half a dozen to try and bring up by hand. With great trouble I succeeded with three, feeding them with finely chopped mudfish (*Gobius viridipunctatus* and *G. polynema*). They became quite domesticated, and would fly all about the

place, returning three times a day regularly for their meals. It was quite amusing to watch their return from their rambles, seldom arriving together; those first home always appeared glad when the later ones arrived, advancing to meet them at a half flying run with open wings, cawing a sort of welcome, and when they met there would be a deal of bowing and scraping and a little dance, partaken in by the new arrivals; then they would run off to their roosting-place, where a second performance would be gone through by the whole company, a sort of "all hands round"!

They all came to an unfortunate end. The Arabs consider these birds a great delicacy as an article of food, and unfortunately all my birds one after the other fell victims to the Arab sportsman. As each was shot, the rest appeared to mourn their loss greatly; for all through the night at intervals they would give a single caw, repeated on each occasion four or five times. The next day they refused their food till late in the day and kept in the vicinity of the telegraph buildings for two or three days, after which they gained confidence and went out on their former excursions. All met the same fate.]

80. HERODIAS GARZETTA (L.) ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 296.

[No. 110. Resident. Supposed to breed near Abdulla Bank.]

81. ARDEA COMATA, Pall.

Ardea ralloides, Dresser, B. Eur. vi. p. 251.

[No. 32. Resident. Supposed to breed in same localities as *Demiegretta gularis*.]

82. BUBULCUS IBIS, Bp.

Ardea ibis, Blanf. *t. c.* p. 296.

[No. 60. Resident. Supposed to breed in the same localities as *Demiegretta gularis*.]

83. NYCTICORAX GRISEUS (L.) ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 296.

[Nos. 18, 20. Arriving in October and leaving in May. One or two large flocks frequent the same clump of date-trees yearly.]

84. GLAREOLA PRATINCOLA (L.) ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 282.

No. 78. Three specimens, an adult and two young.

[Migratory. The adult was shot on the 24th of April, and the two young birds on September 3rd, 1884. The only specimens seen.]

85. ÆGIALITIS DUBIA (Scop.).

Ægialitis curonica, Dresser, B. Eur. vii. p. 491, pl. 524.

[No. 47. One specimen. Only two birds observed, one of which was shot by my brother on the 19th of March, when he was staying with me at Fao for a couple of months. I think they must be more common ; but I have not noticed any others.]

86. CHARADRIUS GEOFFROYI, Wagl.

Ægialitis geoffroyi, Dresser, *t. c.* p. 475, pl. 521.

[No. 62. One specimen. Winter visitant. The one sent to you was shot on the 9th of March, 1884.]

87. TOTANUS CANESCENS (Gm.) ; Dresser, B. Eur. viii. p. 173, pl. 570.

[No. 104. Winter visitant.]

88. TOTANUS CALIDRIS (L.) ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 285.

Nos. 114, 116.

[Winter visitant. Shot in November and December.]

89. TEREKIA CINEREA (Göld.) ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 283.

[No. 115. Winter visitant. One specimen ; shot on the 11th of September, 1884.]

90. NUMENIUS PHEOPUS (L.) ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 286.

Winter visitant.

[No. 80. Arriving in July and leaving in March.]

91. NUMENIUS ARQUATA (L.).

[No. 96. The same as the preceding.]

92. GALLINAGO MAJOR (Gm.) ; Blanf. *t. c.* p. 282.

No. 74. Two specimens.

[Migratory. Seen only in April 1884.]

93. *HYDROCHELIDON HYBRIDA* (Pall.); Blanf. *t. c.* p. 294.
No. 105. In winter plumage.

[Resident throughout the year.]

94. *STERNA SAUNDERSI*, Hume, Str. F. 1877, p. 326.

No. 52. An adult and an immature skin, both bearing out the characters given by Mr. Hume for the species.

[Resident, breeding near Abdulla Bank, Turkish Arabia.]

95. *STERNA ANGLICA*, Mont.; Dresser, B. Eur. viii. p. 295, pl. 585.

[No. 13. Resident. Breeding in the vicinity, on both the Persian and Turkish sides.]

96. *SPATULA CLYPEATA* (L.); Blanf. *t. c.* p. 301.

[No. 97. Winter visitant, arriving in September and leaving in March. The one sent to the Museum was obtained during the current year by my collector, at Fao.]

97. *QUERQUEDULA CIRCIA* (L.); Blanf. *t. c.* p. 301.

[Nos. 40, 101. Winter visitant, from September to March.

No. 40, shot on the 13th of March, 1884.

No. 101, on the 15th of September, 1884.]

98. *PODICEPS MINOR* (Gm.); Blanf. *t. c.* p. 304.

[Arrives in September, leaving in February.]

99. *PODICEPS CRISTATUS* (L.); Blanf. *t. c.* p. 304.

[No. 117. Winter visitant. The only bird shot by me was procured on the 21st of October, 1884.

I believe I saw a Grebe just off the mouth of the river in January, 1884, when paying a visit to the Pelicans' nests.]

XLVII.—*On a Collection of Birds from Bushire, in the Persian Gulf*. By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Zoological Department, British Museum.

FOLLOWING closely on the interesting collections sent by Mr. Cumming, as recorded in the foregoing paper, the Museum has received a valuable consignment from Mr. A. J. V. Palmer, from Bushire. Most of the species are